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# Pools of Water: An Exposition of Traditional and American-Style Haiku

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## **Pools of Water: An Exposition of Traditional and American-Style Haiku**

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Haiku is a Japanese form of poetry that traditionally contains 17 syllables, ordinarily arranged in three line-phases of 5-7-5 syllables. The intention of each haiku is to demonstrate the similarity between disparate entities, where the similarity is not completely obvious, or stand in juxtaposition. The poems are focused on nature and the natural world. The language used in each poem is concise and imagery-dense. An American form of haiku has emerged that attempts to distill the use of language to 11 syllables delivered in three line phrases of 3-5-3 syllables with brevity of articles. Alternatively, American-style haiku accepts a relaxation of the 11-syllable requirement providing that an intense imagery is formed in the phrase. The following collection of ten original poems demonstrates those features with the motivating observations each taking place in Southwestern Michigan.

owls in night  
resonant woodland  
resident voice

rain falls silently  
soft mist becoming droplets  
mocha-skin glistens

a domestic drake  
among green-headed mallards  
unable to fly

grass florettes  
undulating green  
see the wind!

lucky find  
blue ocean treasure  
sand dollar

empty nest  
no choice in fledging  
crow's black beak

small painted-turtle  
wandered too far from water  
not knowing the risk

cirrus clouds  
september blue sky  
queen anne's lace

a tropical storm  
that was born in Africa  
rains on Michigan

firefly  
starlight on the lawn  
mating dance